

Regular Meeting

Agenda Item #	2
Meeting Date	March 28, 2005
Prepared By	Rob Inerfeld Senior Planner
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution approving the final design for the Metropolitan Branch Trail and authorizing the project's completion								
Background	<p>The first phase of the Takoma Park section of the Metropolitan Branch Trail, a regional multi-use trail, located along Takoma Avenue and Fenton Street was completed in the Fall of 2003. The original plans for the trail included a 366-foot long boardwalk that was intended to protect some of the large hardwood trees along Takoma Avenue, across the street from Jeque Park. The construction bids for the project came in too high. Until additional funding was secured, the Council decided to delay construction of the boardwalk which had been proposed to protect certain trees along the trail and to satisfy AASHTO guidelines for multi-purpose trails. A temporary stone dust trail was built in its place.</p> <p>An additional \$113,440 in grant funds has since been secured by the City to complete the trail. The Metropolitan Branch Trail Work Group was reconvened to assist in the finalization of the plans for this second phase of the trail. A majority of the members of the Work Group have come to an agreement as to how to proceed that consists of paving the stone dust section of trail.</p> <p>The City Council discussed this matter on March 21, 2005 and concurred with the recommendation of the Work Group.</p>								
Policy	<p>To "provide for safe, pleasant and convenient bicycle access that contributes to the quality of life" (through construction of) the "Metropolitan Branch Trail as a direct and continuous trail for pedestrians and bicyclists."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Takoma Park Master Plan, 2000</p>								
Fiscal Impact	<p>Available Funding Sources</p> <table> <tr> <td>Montgomery County</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 80,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>MD Recreational Trails Grant</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 29,747</td></tr> <tr> <td>Remaining funds from original funding</td><td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$ 3,693</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$113,440</td></tr> </table> <p>Proposed Project Budget</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The project will be completed for less than the funds available.</p>	Montgomery County	\$ 80,000	MD Recreational Trails Grant	\$ 29,747	Remaining funds from original funding	<u>\$ 3,693</u>	Total	\$113,440
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Attachments	Resolution approving final design and authorizing completion of the Metropolitan Branch Trail								

Recommendation	Staff recommends adoption of the accompanying resolution approving the final design for the Metropolitan Branch Trail and authorizing the project's completion
Special Consideration	Funding provided by Montgomery County for the completion of the trail must be spent by June 30, 2005.

Introduced by:

RESOLUTION # 2005 -

**Resolution Approving Final Design and Authorizing
Completion of the Metropolitan Branch Trail**

WHEREAS, the City Council has supported both the Facility Plan and Concept Plan for the Takoma Park section of the Metropolitan Branch Trail; and

WHEREAS, the section of the Metropolitan Branch Trail that is within Takoma Park was constructed by the City in 2003; and

WHEREAS, during the first phase of construction a temporary stone dust trail was built along a 366-foot long section of the trail; and

WHEREAS, the City has received grant funds of \$80,000 from Montgomery County and \$29,747 from the Maryland State Highway Administration Recreational Trails Program for the purpose of completing the trail; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Branch Trail Working Group has come to agreement as to how to complete this section of the trail and recommends that the trail be completed as follows:

1. The width of the path of the trail will not exceed 11 feet in from the face of the curb to the edge of the path farthest from the curb;
2. The paved width of the trail will not exceed eight feet and a three-foot buffer will be provided along the length of the trail, except in the area of two identified hardwood trees where the paved width of the trail will be gradually narrowed to 7 feet;
3. The construction bid documents will clearly specify that protective fencing must be installed at the 11-foot line and that all heavy equipment work from the street-side in;
4. All care will be exercised in the removal of additional dirt so as to not further disturb tree roots;
5. A construction supervisor will be hired to ensure compliance with the approved tree protection measures during the period of excavation;
6. A new drainage inlet will be designed and installed to allow for the construction of a safe and continuous asphalt trail at the location where the

trail currently ramps down to the stormwater inlet;

7. The retaining wall will be expanded to meet County regulatory requirements;
8. A ground cover such as lirioppe will be planted in the buffer between the trail and the street;
9. Interpretative historical signage, benches, and additional landscaping will be installed as the budget permits;
10. A split rail fence or similar kind of fence will be installed between the trail and the street; and
11. A speed table will be installed on Takoma Avenue between Buffalo Avenue and Fenton Street as an additional traffic calming measure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, supports the completion of the Metropolitan Branch Trail as proposed and authorizes the City Manager to proceed with construction in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2005.

Attest:

Catherine E. Waters, City Clerk